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Dear Dr. Freis,

One sultry May evening in 1959, I sat down to study in my small, cramped rooftop "apartment" on Ali Umar Street, Bombay. As I read from the textbook of Goodman and Gilman a chapter on the pharmacology of ganglionic blocking drugs, I was first introduced to you. It was, perhaps, one chance in 800 million that I would have the honor of doing my fellowship with you.

As I reminisce about my first exposure to your wisdom during the sleep study, I still marvel at how we completed it. Those long nights of watching the EEG readings on the oscilloscope, doing cardiac outputs, along with endless calculations during the wee hours of the morning are forever etched in my mind. I remember quite vividly the night you awoke from one of our infrequent naps, looked at the oscilloscope, and stated, "We're making history, Ibi." That paper is still our masterpiece.

In 1966, at the spring meeting of the American Federation for Clinical Research in Atlantic City, you had your greatest moment yet. I was sharing a room with Drs. Cohn and Tristani at the Burgundie Motel, and one night around 10 p.m., you knocked on our door. It was then that you announced that you had figured out how hypertension begins. I immediately turned off the television, Jay put away the abstracts he had been reading, and Felix sat up in bed. Silence prevailed as we were all ears. You became uneasy, but told us about the initial hemodynamic abnormality which was veno-constriction. After this historic moment, we all went to Jockey Club to celebrate.

As your fellow, I was able to learn extensively as well as to create new concepts by formulating hypotheses, watching them take shape through many hours of experimentation, and rejoicing when they eventually became scientific facts. I consider myself the luckiest amongst your former fellows as I still will have the opportunity to receive cognitive infusions from you regularly even after your retirement.

Dr. Freis, I believe your ability to direct and organize new concepts and design successful studies is unprecedented, and your devotion to scientific research is an inspiration for young, research-oriented students of medicine. Right now, I am thoroughly enjoying this scientific research as a part of my career and I hope to continue in it with you during the years to come.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Ibrahim M. Khatri, M.D.